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DUMMIES OF SOCIETY.

FELLOWS WHO ARE ALWAYS IN THE FRONT AT WEDDINGS.

Young Men with the Manners of a Girl Who Officiate as Professi onal Groomsmen-Hurrying Up Lovers and Providing Bogus Presents.

ern civilization is the professional grooms

large and rolling. He finds himself first in-vited to the "big" houses as a kind of pudsuiters few. As he is entirely harmless and very convenient the girls "take on" over him wonderfully, and as a result he imagines that be is "in society." From this beginning he is pushed forward until he becomes one of the

To talk with one of these young men at the will all smile on him sweetly, honor him with their small talk, and occasionally grow semitime grow amatory he is good-naturedly shoved off, but permitted to retain a little hope.

THEY ARE INDESPRESABLE. "Such young men," said a charming young lady the other day, "are indispensable. They wait upon us with all the devotion of accepted lovers, they are always ready to answer any them are used who have been unfortunated and made upon them, they hold our shawls. All of them are slaves to race betting and made upon them. and act as escorts when no one else can be | too lary to work for a living +Saratega Co find, and "said she, drouping her cyclids de-manely, "they are of excellent services in harrying up slow lovers."

"How is that?" she was asked.

"Well, when the young man hesitates about coming to the point, we can grow sweet on the dimmiss. The acceptance of an invitation or two from them will inspire a timid a sumple of his bullety and their time results of his bullety and their the real week. lover with a determination not to be cutdone. He will grow jealous, and within a week be way. Of course, we would not be so heart-less as to deprive the dummy of his reward, which comes to him in the shape of a request to be one of the groomsmen.

And thus it goes. The poor dummy, up to his ears in debt, karnssed from day to day by the presentation of past-due bills, dreams away his iroubles while listening to ravishing music in some house of high degree, where he is filling his professional role. He does not think of the future, for that will reveal to him the time when fresh padding will pash him out. He dares not aspire to the hand of one of the fair ladies upon whom he waits, for that will, in time, be claimed by some schoolmate who worked hard for money while "Augustus" was idling away his time for a mention in the society column. He has no sympathy at home, for his mother and esters are never invited to the "fine" houses where his figure is so often to be seen. Though in the center of the whirl of society, he is as

The writer cace followed the announcement of a winter's fashionable marriages in Nashville. In eighteen marriages five names hire out for wages they will seif the last appeared continuously as groomsmen. These thing they have around them, including thing they have around them, including the "spiketail cont" business, were nothing more or less than dummies, who had been of service to the brides, and who were being thus repaid for the tender attentions of half a dozen sensous. They were the stock in trade of a certain coterie, and had been privi-Physician and Surgeon. Will continue his profession in all its branches. Consultation free, Office and residence at DIN Main st., over Weller & Hill leged with sents at the kitchen conferences, ler's paint office.

completely isolated from it as if he out upon

the north pole itself.

STILL ANOTHER SERVICE

There is still another service which the dummies perform. In the rivalry of society weddings, there is a great effort to excel in the display of wedding gifts. Of course, there are always the gifts which are sure to come from near relatives and friends, then from parties who feel themselves to be under business obligations to the family, and, lastly, from well-to-do people who have been in-vited, and who know that a \$10 present, at least, is expected. But the presents thus se-cured fall short of the necessary display.

It is then that the professional groomsmar understands a hint. The five gentlemen, whose kids and spiketails have done service twenty times, go to a well known jeweler, who ordinarily would not trust them for a nickel. He has been "seen," however, and meets the professionals with a bland smile. They make their selections, and leave their cards. The presents are not intrusted to them, but are sent directly to the mansion. where they are properly displayed. In the society column of the local paper next morning, among other presents are noted the fol-

Beautiful silver service-"Augustus" Swin-

Gold card receiver-Alfonso Softshell. Silver table service—Harry Lovemewell. Gold mounted opera glasses—Eugene Dryso. Toilet set, solid silver-Frank Always. It is needless to state that the bills for these presents are never presented to the supposed donors. The "old man" goes around next

day and arranges for their return on the pay-ment of a slight rental. ment of a signt rental.

To a newspaper main, who knows the efforts of the duminies to keep affoat, and the small pay in the way of social wares which they receive, the matter looks like a roaring comedy. The same labor given to any reputable business would bring competence, when the social dummy awakes to the fact that he has nothing but askes on his life. Attents Constitution but ashes on his lips.—Atlanta Constitution

Bothering the Passenger Agents. Passenger agents are much bothered by a class of persons who repeatedly ask questions about routes, prices, connections and every detail of a journey, without any intent of making it. To these they have applied the name of mind travelers, who are so easily distinguished by certain outward signs and characteristics that an experienced agent can often tell them at sight. They not only come once, they come again and again, gather every bit of information, carry away circu lars, time tables, etc.; talk of the size of their "party," and furnish every detail, so that anybody who did not know them would suppose they were in earnest. They become : learned concerning the route they assume they want to take and the points they wan to visit that they know far more than the agent himself. They become such an annoyance that he is constantly tempted to tell them that they have no idea of traveling, and that he has not leisure to answer their idle questions. But, as it is always possible that some one of them might make the journey, and as it is his interest to be civil, he exerci self-control and treats each one of them as if he were a profitable patron. Human nature does a great many things that are generally accounted unnatural.—New York Commer-

Patti and the Calvanist.

cial Advertiser.

Mme. Patti-Nicolini now advanced and be witched the audience with "Coming Thro' the Had the author of the words, Pobert Burns, heard her rendering of them he would have thrown up his Highland bonnet with

Near me sat one of the chief dignituries of the Welsh Calvinistic Methodists in New South Wales, and therefore of the modified Puritanism of the present day. He was convulsed with laughter, but kept one hand over one eye, while with the other he watched the ig lady singing "If a body kiss a body need a body cry," Patti and Burns seeme too much for religious austerity, and the son of dear Shon Gorph reveled in the general bilarity.—Cardiff Mail.

There are at the Saratoga race course, as at all large tracks, a number of men, colored and white, called "touts," who operate with nothing but their wits for capital. They are similar to those known about Wall street as "pointers," and their mission is to give "tins" to greenhorns on probable winning horses. If One of the most amusing products of mod- a horse whose name they have given to an investor happens to win the winner is conman. Society requires lacqueys, who should not as dummies for the belles of the season until an eligible party makes his appearance, when poor "Augustus" is retired to the anterout to hold wraps and shawls.

The processing processing gratulated by the tout are taken, and the tout is as liberally rewarded if they prove winners. Some of these tips are simply the names of the lorses selling as favorites in the control of the "Angustus" is usually some mild young man with the softened manners of a girl, wkose voice is well medulated, and whose eyes are lame that morning, was "off his feed," or otherwise not in prime condition. A tout is ding, halies being plentiful and acceptable a person who, without risking any of his own suiters few. As he is entirely harmless and capital, if, indeed, he has any, persuades some one to buy a horse in the nuction or mutual pools or the books upon the alleged information that he furnishes. He not unfrequently gives several customers a different horse, each figures in the german, and later still develops in the same race, and then is pretty sure to as the professional groomsman.

name a winner and to get a fee.

The tout, as I said, occasionally gets hold beginning of a season furnishes feed for a of a good lift of information bearing upon year's reflection. He has advance information particular herce, but he must to a great expensive particular herces, but he must to a great expensive particular herces, but he must to a great expensive particular herces, but he must to a great expensive particular herces, but he must be a great expensive particular herces, but he must be a great expensive particular herces, but he must be a great expensive particular herces, but he must be a great expensive particular herces, but he must be a great expensive particular herces, but he must be a great expensive particular herces, but he must be a great expensive particular herces, but he must be a great expensive particular herces, but he must be a great expensive particular herces, but he must be a great expensive particular herces, but he must be a great expensive particular herces, but he must be a great expensive particular herces, but he must be a great expensive particular herces, but he must be a great expensive particular herces, but he must be a great expensive particular herces, but he must be a great expensive particular herces, but he must be a great expensive particular herces and herce particular herces are a great expensive particular herces are a great expen tion of all the receptions which are to be given, of the prospective marriages, and of all else that is likely to transpire. In the gives a tip, however, he is pretry positive course of the season he will be the escort of perhaps twenty "belles of the ball." They pays, or at least affine least aff those who engage in it, is evident from the many faces familiar at the race courses, and confidential. If "Augustus" should at any have been for years, whose possessors are time grow amatory he is good-naturedly known to have done nothing else since the appeared in the speculative community also the betting quarters. As a class the touts are a sorry looking set. Their ranks are recruit oil from broken down speculators of all sorts

The Negro as a Laborer.

ing speaks for itself. Within the past wee I have seen numbers of them driving : der, and I made it my business to investigate when about the following dialogus ensued: "Old man what are you going to do will

"Pse gwine to sell 'em." "What for:"

"I needs a little meat, and thought I bring this here feeler up and sell 'em." "It seems to me, old man, that you wou need that folder next winter and spring." "I knows that boss, but yer see I must hav a little meat to work on.

What are you doing on the farm now

"Well, ver see, we's done had by der cro and dar am't nuffin now to do." "While you are doing nothing at hom why don't you work out by the day and mak

Then you intend to sit at home it is all th emmir and set up what you have made an what you will need so much next spring?" "I can't work all the time, and I must have

thickets, execut the dog, which must be kept in the family of any cost. When the list of January, 1887, comes these same darkeys will pouncedown on the landlerd for credit, an he will have to buy corn and folder for them. They will trade off the last bushel of corn for tobacco or flimsy toggery and useless articles. -Avgusta (6a.) Chronicle

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